

Messiah Lutheran Church
7740 Highway 72 West
Madison, Alabama 35758

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Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) is located at 7740 Highway 72 West, just east of Hughes Road. Sunday Services of Worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. A nursery attendant is provided. All are welcome. **Our website is www.mlutheran.org**. Church Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., staffed by our Office Managers. The Pastor is Rev. Scott Peterson. Pastor/Developer is Rev. Mark Borseth. The Church telephone is (256) 721-0041 email: info@mlutheran.org. For newsletter articles call Mary Brown.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Volume 23: Issue 10

October 2011

www.mlutheran.com



***Chili Cook Off
& Halloween Party
Saturday, October 29***

The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

Dear Friends of the Active, Restless Messiah,

WHAT'S HAPPENING at MESSIAH LUTHERAN these days? **LOTS!**

LAUREN GRAY, MLC's new *Director of Youth Ministries*, has arrived. Lauren will be serving full-time. Besides leading MLC's Youth programs, Lauren will also help in the *Education* program and bring more Youth leadership into *Worship*.

THE SANCTUARY EXPANSION construction is finally sprouting upward. Hopefully this looks inviting to the world racing by on Hwy. 72. (*Reminder: MLC is building as a **mission effort** to reach more with the Good News of our Lord. The capital fund appeal theme was "Building to Share God's Story".*) The way for us to be faithful in this expansion is by inviting others to join us in receiving God's gifts that are delivered as we gather to worship as MLC. Worship is our **primary** mission as disciples. Hearing God's Word and receiving the Sacraments are foundational for us to be faithful. Everything else we do as MLC flows out of worship.

OCTOBER 2 is COMMITMENT SUNDAY. During worship estimates of giving to MLC for 2012 will be received. As we offer this act of faith let's remember what our financial gifts enable--Our offerings enable sharing this life-giving faith with our children, and others locally, nationally, and internationally. We feed hungry people locally and around the world. We comfort the poor, help disaster victims, and raise up the next generation of church leaders. Sharing the faith we have been given and sharing the gifts God has given us is not optional for disciples of Jesus (*see above*).

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS is Saturday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m. Bring your beloved pet for a service of worship and blessing.

THANK YOU for striving to be a disciple each day. Thank you for caring, sharing, and building up a community of faith where God's gifts are given, friends are made, and those who cannot help themselves are helped.

Like the earliest disciples let us devote ourselves "*to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*"

Grace and peace,

Pastor Scott Peterson

From the Disaster Task Force

Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Month

Do you know where to go if there is a tornado while you are at Messiah? The correct answer is that we gather in the main education hallways, first the one outside the main offices and then we continue down the hallway in front of the Sunday School office and youth room. DO NOT go into the bathrooms or the classrooms, as they have exterior walls. Remember to get down low to the ground and cover your head. Be Safe, Be Prepared!

Updates

We are investigating getting an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the church. The cost is around \$1000, so we are looking for sponsorship or programs that place them in public buildings. If you know of anything that could help us get an AED, contact Kay Spence or Claire Strand.

The emergency phone tree is complete and was called into action after last month's tragedy. If you did not get a call regarding the passing of Jeff Graff, please contact Claire Strand. We want to make certain that everyone is part of the contact tree. We are still working on the congregational asset mapping.

The issue of occupancy levels for the main gathering rooms has been raised and we are looking into getting that verified to prevent overcrowding and the dangers it can bring.

Incarnation Information – October 2011

“Thanks!”

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

*A time to be born & a time to die
A time to plant & a time to pluck up what is planted.”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

I just heard my son Nathan read these words two days ago at my mom’s funeral in Iowa. It was true for her regarding her physical life. It is true for me and my family regarding Incarnation. Within an hour’s time on Thursday, September 15, I heard my mom’s time was near its end and the time of “official” ministry for Incarnation is also near its end. I grieve both of those “times” but know God is still God and life and love end up winning in the end.

Thanks for partnering with me during these past couple of years. Thanks for your friendship. Thanks for your prayers. My family and I seek your prayers as we discern what the next season is for us. We seek your prayers regarding the proper ending of this chapter. We seek your prayers for the good friends we have met at Incarnation who grieve with us. We seek your prayers for the sale of our house and all of the work which will need to go into getting it ready to sell.

This season may not have produced the fruit I had hoped, but I know it has been preparing roots and pruning branches for what God has in store next. Incarnation is not done yet, so please come worship with us and pray for us in these next months. We will continue until the end of January (we have been told we need to end by January 31) or until God sends me to my next assignment (whichever comes first).

I pray that the season God has in store next for our friends at All Saints, Messiah, St. Mark’s and Ford’s Chapel will be fruitful and joyful and full of blessings!

Men’s Breakfast – Saturday, October 8 at 7 AM at Messiah

Our next Men’s breakfast will be on Saturday, October 8 at Messiah at 7 AM. This may be our last meeting, so I hope lots of you can come. This is open to all men – including our friends from All Saints, Ford’s Chapel, Messiah & St. Mark’s.

From Dick and Barbara Azzam..

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful prayer support, meals, lawn mowing, prayer shawl, goodie basket, chauffeur services, cards, phone calls and caring during Barbara’s recent surgeries. You have all been a special blessing to us during this difficult time and we thank God for you every day.



October Services of Worship

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice LS = Lord’s Supper

Sundays at 8:30am

Oct. 2 Chicago Folk w/LS

Oct. 9 LBW Setting 2

Oct. 16 LBW Setting 1 w/ LS

Oct. 23 WOVS Service Word/Prayer

Oct. 30 LBW Setting 2 w/ LS

Sundays at 11:00am

Oct. 2 LBW Setting 1

Oct. 9 Now the Feast w/ LS

Oct. 16 Contemporary Service

Oct. 23 WOVS Bread of Life w/LS

Oct. 30 LBW Setting 2 w/LS

Commitment Sunday

Join in celebrating God’s gifts to us during Commitment Sunday on October 2nd. Please watch for your commitment cards in the mail this week and prayerfully consider your response.

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” James 1:17



Stewardship Thought

From *Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church: A Guide for Every Member* by Kennon L. Callahan

The art of living is to live each moment with a sense of fullness and contentment, appreciation and anticipation. Genuinely enjoy, in the deepest sense, your life’s pilgrimage. We sometimes spend and

waste life as though we had a million years to live....It is as though we think our busy-ness will help us save our life. Look to those moments in which God is richly and fully present. To be sure, God is present in our lives in every moment....

We are the Easter people. We are the people of the risen Lord. The Easter people are not the people who simply follow the trends of the times, as important as it is to understand these. The Easter people – the people who live in Christ, the people who live in prayer – are the people who shape the trends of the times, rather than simply following them. We are more likely to grow forward our giving and our congregation’s giving as we live in Christ, develop our mission and raise our giving with genuine prayer.



LIFE PASSAGES

This newsletter feature announces significant transitions in the life of our community of faith. Birth, Death, Baptism, Graduation, Confirmation, Job Change Relocation, Engagement, Marriage, or any other life passage you would like will be included. Contact Claire Strand.

BIRTHS: *Lord, you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

- Scott and Robin Lakso announce the birth of a granddaughter – Sophie Evangeline Lakso on February 13th. Proud parents are Erik and Victoria Lakso of Madison.

DEATH: *Remember I am with you always to the end of the age Matthew 28:20*

- Ruth Borseth, Pastor Mark Borseth's mother, passed away on September 16th.
- Amelia Tarrach, a Messiah charter member, passed away on September 5th. Amelia's memorial service is 11am, Oct. 1st.

ENGAGEMENT: *"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." John 3:18*

- Jeanine Pesto and Jay Jamison are engaged to marry on December 30th, 2011.

HANDMADE MARKET OCTOBER 22

The Handmade Market will be in the Parish Hall on Sat., Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can purchase handcrafted items for a special someone, made by many gifted Messiah, Madison, and Huntsville Artisans to support *Lunches for Learning*, which provides daily lunches for elementary school children in the rural areas of Honduras. If you would like to donate any handcrafted items, please contact Jackie Myers. We will begin collecting non-perishable items at the beginning of October.



Music Choirs and Ensembles

Sing, Ring, and Play! Enjoy music and glorify God by being active in a musical group at Messiah. The choirs meet on Wednesdays and Sundays and there is always room for more! For more information, contact Lois Graff.

Wednesday evening groups

Cherub Choir, 6-6:30pm, Grades K-1, Directors Taylor Bono, Mikayla Mast
Seraph Choir, 6-6:30pm, Grades 2-6, Directors Randall Fields, Claire Strand
Youth Choir, 6-6:30pm, Grades 7-12, Directors Audrey & Bob Gustafson
Notabella Choir, 6:30-7:30pm, Director Rhonda Gaede
Adult Choir, 7:30-9:00pm, Director Randall Fields

Sunday afternoon groups

Instrumental Ensemble, 12:15-1:15pm, Grades 7-Adult, Director Lois Graff
Cantabile Bell Choir, 5:30-6:30pm, Grades 7-Adult, Director Rhonda Gaede



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

by **Mary Ann Stasiak**

October is full of Fellowship events at Messiah! Saturday October 15th is the re-scheduled date for the **German Cooking Class** with Cornelia Tegtmeier-Rottach. Don't worry if you wanted to participate and the class is filled – Cornelia has several classes planned for the future, including a Specialty Christmas Cookie class on Saturday December 3rd, and we have a number of other outstanding chefs in the congregation who may grace us with sharing their talents – more info to come later.

On Saturday October 22nd, the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) will meet at **Shea's Express for breakfast** at 9 AM, 415 E. Church St in Huntsville. Janice and Bill Murphy are the hosts for this event.

October 29th is the annual **Chili Cook-Off and Halloween Party** in Parish Hall, at 5 PM. Come with your best chili recipe and Halloween costume! Prizes will be awarded for the hottest chili and the top two favorites. The Youth Group will be holding games for Messiah's young Halloweeners.

Reformation Day German Fellowship: Sunday October 30th is Reformation Sunday, and Messiah will be celebrating all things German. In the Parish Hall after both services, come and enjoy some favorite German foods as we remember our German heritage on the anniversary of Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses that triggered the Reformation which still shapes our teachings and worship today.

Bridge Club meets on the second Friday of every month starting at 7:30 pm AND the 4th Sunday after 2nd service, this month on October 14th and October 23rd. New and experienced bridge players welcome! Bring a friend and a snack to share - Contact Mary Ann and Ed Stasiak.

Other events coming up through the end of the year:

- Family Game Time, Saturday November 12th, 4-8 PM (we bring the pizza)
- Specialty Christmas Cookie Cooking Class with Cornelia, Saturday Dec 3rd, 10-2
- Christmas Cookie and Ornament Exchange, Saturday Dec 3rd, 2-4
- Swedish Advent Fellowship, Sunday Dec 4th
- Italian Advent Fellowship, Sunday Dec 11th
- American "Southern" Advent Fellowship, Sunday Dec 18th

Can you help with an upcoming event? Contact Mary Ann Stasiak.

Comforter's will resume meeting every Tuesday in October @10 a.m.. More workers are welcome. Questions call **Annette Joens**

OUTREACH NEWS Claire Strand and Jacquie Fry

WARM THE HOMELESS: It's fall again and the weather will be getting colder soon. There are homeless people here in Huntsville who will need blankets and jackets to keep themselves warm through the fall and winter. Messiah will be collecting blankets, pillows, and jackets in the box in the recess in the hall outside the Parish Hall. You can also donate hats, scarves, and gloves. Thank you for your continuing generosity to those in our community who are in need!

CANCER SURVIVORS LUNCH: On Monday, October 3rd at 12 noon all ladies of the church who are cancer survivors are invited to a celebration lunch at Janet Smith's house. If you are a survivor and have not yet been contacted, please let Claire or Janet know and they will give you more details.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will be Saturday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m. We will sing, pray, hear a meditation by Jonnianne Rldzelski-McCombs, and have our pets blessed. All invited.

Healing After a Disaster

You are invited to attend a series of topics in October at Messiah beginning at **6pm:**

"When the Heart Breaks: Surviving Loss"

Rev. Carl Malm, Center for Grief, Loss and Change – **October 4th**

"Helping Your Child Heal Emotionally After a Disaster"

Jan Neighbors, M.A., Project Rebound – **October 11th**

"When Bad Things Happen: How Faith Can Help in Hard Times"

Rev. Carl Malm - **October 18th**

"Surviving After a Disaster: Handling the Guilt"

Jan Neighbors, M.A. - **October 25th**

This is a partnership between Center for Grief, Loss and Change & Project Rebound. Special thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church for allowing us the use of their facility. Any questions please contact Jan Neighbors. No cost, no reservations required.

Wednesday Night Café is off to a good start. We invite everyone to come to the Parish Hall on Wednesday for a wonderful meal and fellowship. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30. Children can eat and still get to choir! The cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children (maximum of \$17 per family). We are still looking for volunteers to prepare meals, provide desserts and HELP WITH CLEANUP! For more information contact Debi Peterson. There will not be any dinner on October 5th.

Education & Youth News by Linda Peirce

SUNDAY SCHOOL...

Sunday school classes are offered for ages 2-adult. Please contact Gary Garrison, our Sunday School Superintendent if you want more information about classes for children and youth. Please contact the church office for more information on adult classes offered. Lauren Gray, Messiah's new Youth Director, will begin teaching a class for Senior High Youth (grades 9-12) later this month. Look for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins and the weekly e-newsletter.

YOUTH NEWS

Senior Youth - meet every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Planning has begun for attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July. Come join the group and welcome our new Youth Director, Lauren Gray!

Looking ahead ~ Jr. and Sr. Youth will soon begin collecting items to fill Christmas shoeboxes for **Samaritan's Purse**. Our youth will join other Lutheran youth in the Huntsville area on Nov. 13 to wrap shoeboxes and prepare packages of home-baked cookies to be mailed to our military troops overseas. More information is forthcoming. See Linda Peirce if you have questions.

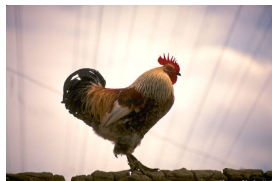
Welcome Lauren! MLC welcomes **Lauren Gray** as our new Director of Youth Ministry. Lauren will be working with all youth groups, teaching a Senior High Sunday School class, and advising Messiah's Christian Education program. Plans are underway to have Lauren visit the homes of all junior and senior youth.

Acolyte Training

All students in 5th Grade or older who would like to be Acolytes, please plan to attend training in January 2012. We are delaying our usual fall training due to construction and anticipated changes in the new Sanctuary. Please stay tuned for the date and time. Training is usually held after the late service on a designated Sunday. If you have any questions contact Barbara Azzam.

Chickens for Tornado Victims

We collected 250 lbs of chicken to help Feed the Nation. WOW! Ya'll are awesome! A special THANK YOU to Julie Frisk Pedersen, Sonja Pedersen, Jacquie Fry and Gina Saladino for all their hours of volunteering. Great job Messiah! Blessed to be a blessing!



<p>23 8:30am Worship WOV Word/Prayer 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship WOV Bread of Life w/LS 12noon Bridge Club 5:30pm Cantabile Choir 6:30pm Youth Group</p> <p>30 LBW Setting 2 w/LS 9:45 Sunday School 11:00am Worship LBW Setting 2 w/LS Noon German Day Feast</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Judy Sylvester</i></p>	<p>25 10 am Comforters</p> <p><i>Margarete Taylor</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>5pm 2nd yr Confirmation 5:30 - 6:30pm Church Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choirs 6:30pm Youth Ensemble 6:30pm Notabella Bell Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir</p> <p><i>Cornelia Tegtmeier Konrad, Harriet, Arvid</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 am Morning Study Group</p> <p><i>Mark & Beth Thompson Kyle, Meghan</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Brad & Stacy Tidwell Natalie, Canon</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>5pm Chili Cook Off & Halloween Party</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday October 16</p>
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